



Stream Maintenance Program Manual

The Agency is in the process of developing a Stream Maintenance Program (SMP) Manual. The purpose of this SMP Manual is to define the overall maintenance program and present key program features such as management activities, natural resources in the program area, and methods to reduce or minimize consequences to environmental resources. The SMP Manual is being developed carefully to balance the Agency's mandate to provide flood protection while also enhancing natural resources and environmental sustainability. The SMP Manual will be used by Agency maintenance staff, engineers, and resource managers, as well as the environmental regulatory agency staff and other watershed stakeholders.

As a program, the SMP involves several components and functions. The principal activities of the program include:

- Developing a Stream Maintenance Program Manual to describe overall program approach, maintenance activities, and environmental resources;
- Developing advisory manuals for stream and channel operations and maintenance activities, hydrologic analyses, and flood control design criteria;
- Developing a data system and inventory to organize program information and communicate information regarding maintenance activities and natural resources;
- Working with regulatory agencies to develop long-term programmatic permits based on acceptable and adequate standards and conditions of the program;
- Establishing a Watershed Partnerships Program to help mitigate environmental consequences of the SMP while providing watershed benefits through stream restoration, erosion control, education and other land management practices implemented by local partner organizations;

- Establishing an administrative structure at SCWA to provide continuous and consistent oversight of the program;
- Establishing an Inter Agency Working Group (IAWG) comprised of regulatory agency representatives to provide the program guidance and regulatory coordination through an open and transparent forum; and
- Conducting all necessary environmental review activities including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, Endangered Species Act, and Clean Water Act.

The SMP Manual represents a planning process and policy document to be adopted by the Agency. Following adoption, the SMP Manual will be used by the Agency to guide and implement routine stream maintenance activities. The SMP Manual is envisioned to be a flexible program subject to periodic revisions reflecting an improved understanding of resource conditions, maintenance technologies, or management practices.

A draft SMP Manual is expected to be available for public review and comment by the fall of 2008.

Questions regarding the SMP Manual may be directed to Jon Niehaus 707 547-1947 or by email jon@scwa.ca.gov.